(b) if so, whether Government have since reviewed the matter; and

(c) if not, by when Government propose to review the same and what will be the pay in the revised scale of pay upto which a non-gazetted employees are eligible for payment of OTA who are detained after office hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Payment of OTA to the employees continues to be made as per the existing orders on the basis of notional pay upto Rs. 2200 in the pre-revised scales of pay under the CCS (Revised Pay) Rules, 1986.

Promotion of Assistants under in-situ Scheme

1602. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government during the years 1998 and 1999, have promoted Section Officers and Under Secretaries of the Central Secretariat Services to the next higher grade under in-situ scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering on the same analogy to promote Assistants of C.S.S. to their next higher grade *i.e.* to the post of Section Officer;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and whether this will not tentamount to discrimination with these officers; and

(d) if so, by when they are likely to be promoted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (d) Owing to protracted litigation in CAT and Supreme Court on *inter-se* seniority of Section Officers, panels of CSS officers for promotion to Under Secretary (US) and Deputy Secretary (DS) levels could not be finalised after 1986 for US and after 1993 for DS. This resulted in acute stagnation in the grades of Section Officers/ Under Secretaries. Following Supreme Court's directions dated May 9,1997, a Common Seniority List of Section Officers was notified on 3.12.1997.

Subsequently, orders were issued in September, 1998 and August, 1999 to upgrade "temporarily" a specified number of posts from the grades of Section Officers/Under Secretaries to that of Under Secretaries/ Deputy Secretaries for giving promotion on personal/in-situ basis to the eligible officers.

For the Assistants, panels for promotion to the grade of Section Officer, have regularly been finalised on annual basis. Meanwhile, Career Progression Scheme (ACP) had been introduced for Groups 'B', 'C and 'D' employees in August, 1999. Assistants (Group 'B') thus stand on a different footing. The case of Assistants for in-situ promotion on the analogy of the aforesaid orders issued in 1998 and 1999, does not hold.

Revision of syllabi for Civil Services Examination

1603. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that syllabi of some of the subjects for the next Civil Services Examination have been revised by the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the subjects involved;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been an adverse reaction among the prospective contestants; and

(d) if so, steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard so as to ensure a level playing field for candidates belonging to all disciplines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (d) To ensure quality of the syllabi prescribed for various examinations held by them, the Union Public Service Commission keeps on updating and revising the same. Accordingly, syllabi of 30 subjects for Civil Services Examination, 2000 have been revised. A list of these subjects is enclosed as Statement *(See* below).

Syllabus revision is an ongoing exercise under which a certain number of subjects are taken up for revision every year. The Commission sets up separate Committees comprising Members of the Commission for different subject